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in quite large numbers. Mr. Samuels also says that they never molest their feathered neighbors. I have repeatedly seen the fish hawk attack the night heron and pursue it for a short distance. There seemed to be no reason for these attacks, but the hawk appeared to be venting his ill-humor upon the poor heron for want of some other object. Once when in a boat with two companions we saw a fish-hawk attack some water-fowl (the distance was too great to make out with certainty what it was), that was swimming by near its nest. The bird dove and the fish-hawk hovered about till it reappeared, when it renewed its attack. This performance lasted for a few minutes, and ended by the fish hawk's desisting from his assaults. — WALTER WOODMAN.

GEOLOGY.

GLACIERS IN PALÆOZOIC TIMES. — In "Notes on an ancient Boulder Clay of Natal," Dr. Sutherland describes an ancient "boulder clay," consolidated into a clay stone porphyry, "perhaps of Permian age," which rested generally upon old Silurian sandstones, the upper surface of which was often deeply grooved and striated. Mr. T. M'K. Hughes, while admitting the probability of a recurrence of glacial periods, disputed the evidence in this particular case. Prof. Ramsay "pointed out that in the Natal beds, under discussion, enormous blocks of rock occurred, which were sixty or eighty miles from their original home, and still remained angular; and there was a difficulty in accounting for the phenomena on any other hypothesis than that suggested. He still maintained the probability of the occurrence of glacial episodes, not only in the Permian, but in other ages, as he had done, now fifteen years ago." — *Proceedings of the Geological Society of London, reported in Nature.*

RECENT AND FOSSIL COPAL. — At the meeting of the Linnean Society held May 5th, Dr. J. D. Hooker read a communication from Dr. Kirk, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Zanzibar, on the distinction between the recent and fossil states of the resin known in commerce as Copal. One characteristic by which fossil copal is known from the recent resin is the so-called "goose-skin." Dr. Kirk has ascertained that the fossil copal shows no trace of this goose-skin when first dug out of the earth, but that it makes its appearance only after cleaning and brushing the outer surface. Both descriptions often contain imprisoned leaves, flowers, and insects in a beautiful state of preservation; but the fossil variety is clearer and more transparent. Captain Grant states that the true copal gum-tree is a climber reaching to a great height among the forest trees, finally becoming completely detached from its original root, when the copal exudes from the extremities of these detached roots. Large pieces of the resin fetch a very high price even in that country. — *Quarterly Journal of Science.*